

Meagan Werth Ranson

To: PressRoom Nevada Health Response
Subject: RE: Public Comment to the COIVD 19 Task Force

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From: **Adrienne Michelson** <abmtopic@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Nov 6, 2020 at 6:58 PM
Subject: Public Comment to the COIVD 19 Task Force
To: <Pressroom@nvhealthresponse.nv.go>

Hello,

Below is a letter of public comment for the COVID19 task force. Due to battling cancer, I hope some accommodations can be made so that this can be submitted into the record of the next COVID Task force meeting on the 12th- and be made available to the Chair of the Task Force as well as the Director. This would be in replacement of the two minute speaking period.

Thanks,

Adrienne

Dear Nevada COVID19 Health Task Force,

My name is Adrienne Michelson. I'm a newer resident of Nevada here in Las Vegas with seven years of professional experience working with data and data decision making in fast-paced environments. However, I write to you as someone with this knowledge and a newly diagnosed patient of stage 3 hodgkin's lymphoma, and now immunocompromised.

I wanted to listen in during this past meeting on November 5th, but, unfortunately, that was the worst day of side effects for my first round treatment. I have caught up on the youtube video. Hence my written response here.

First, I want to thank you everyone for doing an impossible task; I duly appreciate it. It comes with obstacles and challenges that I do not envy. However, I want to ring the alarm a little harder and drill in a little more specifically about supporting holistic decisions or supporting broad recommendations to the Governor to execute statewide to help flatten what will be another curve and make everyone's lives on the task force, and subsequent local task force easier.

I am asking for statewide recommendations from this task force to be delivered to the Governor to execute to flatten the curve for everyone in the state.

My reason for alarm is also personal. When I found out my diagnosis, on October 3rd, after emergency surgery at Mountainview Hospital, my family flew in and was there that Sunday and helped me through the week. My dad is the Academic Chair of Emergency Medicine at Texas Tech of El Paso and Director of Emergency Services for the UMC of El Paso. When he and my mom visited, the caseload in his hospital for COVID19 was a little over 30 patients. A month later, including with state support considerations with 200+ COVID patients, and overall in El Paso cases are expanding as of 11/4 there are over 1000+ covid patients hospitalized per the El Paso Report here > <http://epstrong.org/documents/covid19/health-orders/releases/covid-report-november-6-2020.pdf?1604716606>

It's a tough situation.

During this spike, the risk of travel means I am reasonably not comfortable asking my parents to help me with my chemo treatment here in Las Vegas, given my situation and their age risk- and I can't tell you how upsetting it is. I know I only speak for myself in this letter, but I know others are probably experiencing similar issues or taking a significant risk in getting assistance in their treatment or help.

In addition, I get treatment at an outpatient oncology practice in Summerlin Medical Hospital Office; I worry, even with the mitigation efforts, that with another spike, the risk of people in those facilities is higher than they should be because people will be gathering more indoors as many have noted during your task force meetings.

So I feel a great urgency to at least write this once to urge the statewide action to help people in situations like mine, but where familial assistance is all they have from a financial perspective, or they are not in a position to speak up themselves. I am lucky in that I don't, but this is for them.

I suggest you draw from the White House Task Force Guidelines combined with the Harvard Global Health Institute and consider these recommendations now for the state. The work done by NHHS to collect data and present it is informative, however, for a more interactive dashboard that draws on the multitude of metrics, I've found this tool helpful, [COVID Act Now](https://covidactnow.org/us/nevada-nv?s=1295310), <https://covidactnow.org/us/nevada-nv?s=1295310>, to drilling into what those broad recommendations are, and why. It is built by engineering and tech top talent and guided by leading health professionals. There may be discrepancies in numbers, such as contact tracing doesn't include the use of 67,000 people using the COVID19 tracing app, as Julia Peek noted in the November 5th call. Still, holistically it points to some concrete recommendations the state as a whole needs right now. Here they are as of 11/6 listed:

Bars should be avoided and required to close.

Gyms should be avoided and required to close.

Masks should be mandated and worn by everyone outside their home.

Schools: Enable remote learning for all students. All government levels should invest in remote learning.

Restaurants should max at 25% capacity. Local governments must assist in expanding outdoor dining opportunities. Customers should use take-out or eat outdoors socially distanced.

Gatherings should be limited to 10 people and physical distance should be maintained. The CDC also recommends that [gatherings take place outdoors](#).

I hope you take time during your upcoming meeting, if not sooner, to discuss these options. I will note, I was directed to your meeting via Governor Sisolak's constituency office to make these recommendations. I appreciate you taking the time to consider them and hope we can flatten the curve for everyone and save lives.

Thanks,

Adrienne Michelson